



Profile of Marylyn Mayo

Born and raised in New Zealand, Marylyn Eve Mayo (nee Mason) had a lifelong interest in education, law and the visual arts. Her academic career establishes her place as a legal pioneer in Australasia. The University of Auckland had fewer than two dozen women law graduates when Marylyn Mason completed her BA/LLB in 1960. It was at this time that Marylyn started to collect the works of contemporary New Zealand artists including Colin McCahon, Don Binney and Rick Killeen. (Her mother, Mavis Mason was a keen artist and was taught for a time by Colin McCahon).

In 1969 Marylyn moved to Australia to teach law at the University of Queensland's campus in Townsville, soon to be known as James Cook University. It was here she met and married John Mayo in 1970. Marylyn's vision to establish a separate Faculty of Law at James Cook University was realised in 1989 when she became the Foundation Head of its newly established Law School. She retired in 1996, retaining her interest in cinema, art, and travel and working as a member of the Australian National Health and Medical Research Committee between 1997 and 2001. Marylyn Mayo died on 26 November 2002.

Marylyn's links with James Cook University remained with the establishment of the Marylyn Mayo Medal and the Law Students' Society's annual Mayo Lecture. Her legacy is also honoured at the Auckland University Law School with the Marylyn Eve Mayo Endowment Scholarship and the Marylyn Mayo Rare Book Room, recently gifted by her husband, John Mayo. Her special interest in art is recognised with his generous funding of the Auckland Art Gallery's Marylyn Mayo internship and the establishment of the E.H McCormick Research Library's annual art history journal.